

**OW Management Report**  
**Gold King Mine Release and Typhoon Soudelor**  
**August 15, 2015**

**Gold King Mine Release**

**Background:**

On August 5, while investigating the Gold King Mine in Colorado, an EPA cleanup team triggered a release of mine wastewater into Cement Creek. The EPA is working closely with responders and local, state and tribal officials to monitor water contaminated by the release. The release's path flows through three of the EPA's regions - Region 8 (Colorado, Utah, Southern Ute Tribe, and Ute Mountain Ute Tribe); Region 6 (New Mexico), and Region 9 (Navajo Nation). EPA has activated its Emergency Operations System to ensure coordination among its regions, laboratories and national program offices in Washington, D.C. The EPA has also set up an incident command center in Durango, CO. The EPA is coordinating with officials in Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Southern Ute Tribe and Navajo Nation and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe.

**Response Coordination:**

The EPA HQ EOC is now fully activated. Shifts will be 9:30 AM – 7 PM, Seven days a week. Kevin Tingley will staff the Water Desk through Saturday August 15. David Goldbloom-Helzner will staff the desk August 16, 17 and 20, and Brian Pickard will staff the desk August 18, 19 and 21.

**EPA Statement on New Mexico Reopening Private Domestic Water Well Use  
(Effective August 14, 2015):**

Today, New Mexico announced its determination that private domestic water well use along the Animas River should resume based on water quality sampling results collected by both New Mexico Environment Department and the EPA. Reopening private domestic water well use is a state and local decision and we believe they have taken appropriate steps in arriving at this this decision. EPA sampling results from the river collected last week similarly show that water quality conditions are returning toward pre-event conditions. We know the state has gone through a deliberative process in making this decision. EPA will continue to sample, analyze, and make data available to support local decision makers moving forward to allow them to make the best informed decisions.

**EPA Activities:**

**Table 1 – Operation Sampling Activities (August 13, 2015)**

Matrix	Region	August 13, 2015
Private Drinking Water Wells	Region 6	42
	Region 8	19

	Region 9	0
Surface Water Samples	Region 6	9
	Region 8	4
	Region 9	7
Sediment Samples	Region 6	39
	Region 8	12
	Region 9	7

**Table 2 – Public Support Summary**

Activity	Region	August 13, 2015		Cumulative	
		Items	Quantity (gallons)	Items	Quantity (gallons)
Potable Water Deliveries	Region 6	NR	NR	NR	NR
	Region 8	0	0	9	58,200
	Region 9	0*	0*	0*	0*
Livestock / Agricultural Water Deliveries	Region 6	9	298,863	21	532,623
	Region 8	1	15,430	31	91,020
	Region 9	2	28,000	2	28,000
Agricultural Food Deliveries	Region 6	NR	NR	NR	NR
	Region 8	NR	NR	NR	NR
	Region 9	0	0	0	0

Notes: NR- No deliveries reported.

\*Water deliveries in Region 9 are being handled by the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority.

Drinking water systems affected by the response as of August 13, 2015, and their status are summarized below:

**Table 3 – Public Support Summary**

Region	Number of Affected Water Systems	Population	Status
Region 6	8	80,392	All systems currently in operation
Region 8	0	0	All systems currently in operation
Region 9	0	0	All systems currently in operation

Region 8:

The CDPHE, and public water systems regulated by CDPHE in the impacted area, are taking raw and finished water samples to monitor water quality. CDPHE is coordinating with City of Durango drinking

water treatment staff regarding the Animas River intake. It was not in use at the time of the event and has been off-line pending water quality assessment with CDPHE and completion of irrigation canal flushing.

CDPHE has 7 staff in area and continued collecting the Animas River surface water and sediment sampling. Also continued outreach to public water supply system operators. Public system operators are continuing normal testing of their systems.

In response to requests from nine residents, one the EPA sampling teams will be working with the Southern Ute trip sampling private drinking water wells. Durango area operations are conducting more ditch survey work. Irrigation ditches in the southern area of the Animas in Colorado that had minimal staining will be flushing and potentially opening today.

The EPA is working with Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) on taking a sediment sample on 8/14/2015 at the intake to the Animas La Plata Nighthorse Reservoir.

#### Region 6:

NMED informed EPA that the Town of Morningstar's reserve had dropped drastically and the Town only had an estimated 48 hours of available supply, as of August 14, 2015. EPA is acting quickly to mobilize a temporary pump to facilitate an emergency connection between Farmington and Morningstar. EPA has ordered holding tanks. EPA estimates the connection will be completed on August 17, 2015. The pump left Houston mid-day on August 14, 2015, and is on the way to Morningstar. EPA is looking into having New Mexico and Texas waive the need for the truck to stop at weighing stations and to have law enforcement escort for the truck.

#### Region 9:

- R9 is conducting surface water sampling and sediment sampling along the San Juan River in the Navajo Nation at 11 monitoring sites.
- Surface water sampling is planned for Lake Powell
- The Navajo Tribal Utility Authority has initiated sampling of the three wells at Montezuma Creek and at the intake of the Mexican Hat surface water plant.
- EPA (R9) is paying for water hauling services to deliver water to areas served by wells on the NTUA – Montezuma Creek public water system which was shut down as a precaution
- Water trucks to address Navajo agricultural and livestock needs have been secured and will be continuing to deliver water to designated locations.

#### Infrastructure Impacts:

##### Region 6:

Based on conversation with the State of New Mexico and drinking water systems on August 12, 2015, the following is the list of affected water systems and their status:

System Name	Population	# Days Water Available
Aztec Domestic Water System	6800	10 days
Farmington Water System	47000	60 days

Lower Valley WUA	8428	6 days
Morningstar Water Supply System	6423	3-5 days*
Northstar WDWCA	4123	30 days
Southside Mutual Domestic	1593	3-5 days get water from Aztec
Upper La Plata WUA	2265	Get water from Aztec and Farmington
Flora Vista	4300	1 day/get water from Aztec
Total Population	80,392	

\* see note in Region 6 EPA Activities above

**Sampling Results:** EPA continues to post sampling results on the public website

<http://www2epa.gov/goldkingmine>

## Typhoon Soudelor

Tropical Storm (TS) Goni has formed to the southeast of the Northern Mariana Islands. The National Weather Service has issued a typhoon watch for Saipan and Tinian, meaning typhoon-force winds of 74 mph or greater are possible within 48 hours. The system is currently predicted to pass approximately 50 miles south of Saipan during the early morning of Sunday, 8/16 CNMI time (Saturday afternoon Pacific time) with wind speeds of 70 mph, which is just under typhoon strength.

## Commonwealth Utility Corporation (CUC):

Water Distribution Recovery Summary:

- Currently: 34 wells operable, producing 3.2MGD [31%]
- Susupe, Chalan Kanoa, Chalan Kiya, San Antonio, Oleai and San Jose Villages getting water via distribution periodically.
- Some wells are not producing 24 hrs/day due to poor coordination of fuel delivery to generators.

## Water Testing:

- Shipment of donated lab supplies from IDEXX Laboratories was sent out to DEQ and is expected to arrive in 4-5 days
- A generator is being wired to run the DEQ certified water testing lab. Once up and running, sampling and testing will commence, starting with bottled water companies and RO treated water distribution points.

## Emergency Water Distribution:

- CUC filling stations: Navy Hill, As Matius, As Teo, Kanat Tabla, Kagman, Capital Hill open 12-7pm for residential use. Up to 100 gallons/household/day.

## Bottled water:

- 8/13 and 8/14 Water Task Force visited 13 bottled water and ice companies to survey

operational status and finished water capacity.

- 5 companies are operational and producing 9000 gallons of potable water/day
- 6 companies are not operational but can produce 6000+ gallons/day, once water and power are restored (some production data unavailable)

**Survey of Retail Stores for Bottled Water Availability:**

- Survey is completed, conclusion is that there are plenty of cases of bottled water available for purchase.

**Wastewater:**

- Water Task Force SME providing technical assistance to CUC to evaluate Sadog Tasi WWTP restarting plant operations.
- With CUC distributing water intermittently, more water entering wastewater collection system. Lift stations without permanent generators are not keeping up. Small spills occurred at lift station SR2 Wednesday and Thursday.